



IN THE MATTER OF:

***STRIPLING
v.
SHAUNA, INC.***

COURT RULING

***Kendra Tellez Court Reporting, Inc.
300 Central SW
Suite 1500-E
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-243-5691 Fax 505-242-0313***

EXHIBIT

J

Stripling,

-vs-

Shauna, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

CV-06-625-3

Defendants.

COURT'S RULING

RECORDING

TRANSCRIBED BY: KENDRA D. TELLEZ
CCR 205
Kendra Tellez Court Reporting, Inc.
Suite 1500E
300 Central, Southwest
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

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1 They had notice. And, again, I think the rule does
2 allow for it not being perfected or a judgment being
3 entered.

4 I do find that -- that there was a
5 transfer of funds, both through the asset transfer
6 and through just cash amounts. What the Sulimas did
7 here is they treated Shauna, Inc., as their -- as
8 their personal funds, and they transferred money
9 both back and forth without protecting the creditors
10 of -- or people that had a claim, and -- and I think
11 due to that fact and the transfers that occurred
12 there -- thereof, I do enter judgment in the amount
13 of \$406,835.03, again minus the two vehicles.

14 MR. CHAVEZ: Excuse me, Your Honor,
15 that -- that -- that --

16 THE COURT: Not judgment. What I do
17 is set aside the -- okay, I'm sorry. Setting aside
18 the transfer. And again, the amount that I believe
19 they transferred fraudulently in the amount of --
20 and I'm sorry, I misstated -- \$406,835.03. And I --
21 again, I do find that -- I go on to find that they,
22 as set out in the rule, that there was an actual
23 intent. I do believe that the Sulimas had an actual
24 intent to hinder, delay or defraud the creditors on
25 the claim by the Striplings. I think this is shown

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1 THE COURT: Thank you. The first
2 thing, I do want to thank you guys for the binders.
3 I think to even try to have deal -- dealt with all
4 of these exhibits without them being organized and
5 in binders would have been impossible. So I do
6 thank the attorneys for preparation. I could tell a
7 lot of time and effort and preparation went into the
8 hearing that we've had for the last two-and-a-half
9 days, so I do thank both of you for your
10 professionalism and your organization.

11 I guess, bottom line, the Court is going
12 to rule in favor of the Plaintiffs. The Court does
13 find that. And I can go through the findings if I
14 need to. I -- one thing that I differ, I guess, is
15 that I would excerpt or take out the value of the
16 two vehicles that did not belong to -- to Shauna,
17 Inc., out of the equation.

18 The Court does find, of course, that I
19 have jurisdiction, both personal and -- and of the
20 jurisdiction -- jurisdiction. I do find that George
21 and Shari Sulima were insiders. I do find that
22 they, the Plaintiffs, were creditors, that there was
23 a claim, that it was filed.

24 I disagree, Mr. Chavez, with your -- your
25 argument that there was not a claim. It existed.

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1 by -- and one thing I found very compelling was the
2 bankruptcy documents, which clearly showed they
3 claimed it was under a category which to the Court
4 was not accurate, that it was a foreclosure, a
5 transfer, that there was a -- I find the liens that
6 the Sulimas claimed were not valid liens. Again, I
7 think they had their name on the paperwork because
8 they -- this company was their own, but I don't find
9 they had a valid lien.

10 Again, I think there's also the letter.
11 Another thing the Court found compelling to show the
12 intent was the letter by the accountant, Mr. Lane,
13 in which he stated that -- that they were filing
14 bankruptcy to -- and I forget the exact language and
15 the exact exhibit number, which -- in which he
16 talked about they were filing bankruptcy to deal
17 with dissatisfied or claims that they had against
18 them. And, again, I think that showed the intent of
19 what was told to him.

20 I find that the actual intent was shown,
21 that the transfer obligation was to an insider,
22 that -- I'm not sure if I buy that the debtor
23 retained possession or control of that property,
24 although they retained control of the cash that came
25 in and was transferred.

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1 The transfer obligation was concealed,
2 that the transfer was made -- was made or
3 obligations were incurred when the debtor was being
4 sued or threatened with suit, which was clearly --
5 this was substantially all of the debtor's assets,
6 that the debtor removed or concealed the assets.
7 Again, I think he misrepresented, and I believe that
8 then was reluctant in the course discovery in the
9 separate lawsuit.

10 And, again, the debtor transferred the
11 essential assets of the business, not Subsection 11.
12 So I do, in essence, other than the difference in
13 the amount, I do adopt the Plaintiffs' proposed
14 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

15 Anything else the Court needs to deal with
16 to clarify its order? Oh, I know as to the other
17 remedies that were requested -- yes, Mr. Chavez, go
18 ahead first.

19 MR. CHAVEZ: I'm sorry, Your Honor.
20 As to the other remedies, there was no requested
21 relief, and I forgot to say this on the closing.
22 There was no requested relief for the receivership.
23 I mean, it seems to me what . . .

24 THE COURT: In the original -- you
25 mean in the Complaint?

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1 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. And what -- what
2 they have now would be a right to collect the debt.

3 THE COURT: Right.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: And not the -- not the
5 \$406,000, but -- but the judgment.

6 THE COURT: Whatever's owed to them.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay. We'd like to know
8 what -- I'm sure he's got the calculations as to --
9 as to what that amount is.

10 THE COURT: Right. And I never heard
11 that as part of, again, what the evidence was today.
12 I heard some things about it being offset by a bond,
13 but I never heard what the total amount of the
14 judgment that still remains by the Striplings is. I
15 don't know if that --

16 MR. FEFERMAN: Let me address two
17 numerical items, just so we can get close on that.
18 One has to do with the Eric Bock vehicles. My
19 understanding is that that's -- that's \$27,000 for
20 those two.

21 MR. CHAVEZ: I don't know -- I don't
22 know the difference it makes, at this point.

23 MR. FEFERMAN: Oh.

24 THE COURT: That was just part
25 of . . .

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1 MR. FEFERMAN: I'm just trying to
2 come up with something so that the Court can enter
3 her finding.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: The judgment was not
5 \$400,000, so there's more than enough cushion in
6 there so that we can take in or out Mr. Bock's . . .

7 MR. FEFERMAN: Okay. Well, that's my
8 understanding of -- of the amount. That's the
9 number that sticks in my head.

10 THE COURT: And I wasn't quite
11 certain. So as I looked at the Asset Purchase
12 Agreement, the Exhibit A, I wasn't certain. I had
13 gone back and looked at the exhibits, but I --

14 MR. FEFERMAN: I got that, I think,
15 from page 80 of Mr. Lane's stuff where he listed two
16 items. I think it was \$27,000 for the Bock
17 vehicles.

18 THE COURT: Whatever that value is,
19 and hopefully you and Mr. Chavez can look at those
20 numbers. And again, ultimately I don't know that
21 that makes a difference.

22 MR. FEFERMAN: As I told Mr. Chavez
23 last evening, in terms of the exact amount owed at
24 this point, the original judgment was for 128
25 thousand, I want to say, 706 dollars, or something

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1 like that. Let's call it 128 and change. And there
2 was -- ultimately, we collected \$50,000 from the
3 Manufactured Housing Division bond, after two years
4 of litigation with them. So that -- let's call that
5 \$78,000.

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Sixty-eight thousand.
7 \$68,706.

8 MR. FEFERMAN: No, 78, 120 minus 50
9 would be 70.

10 MR. CHAVEZ: You're right, I'm sorry.

11 MR. FEFERMAN: Yeah. So it's \$78,000
12 plus something. Interest runs from the date of
13 judgment, which was entered -- entered by this Court
14 on August something-or-other 2004. Is that right?
15 2004.

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Yeah.

17 MR. FEFERMAN: Yeah. So that's at
18 8 3/4s percent for three-and-a-half years, which is
19 going to be another 20-something thousand dollars.

20 MR. CHAVEZ: I can do that real
21 quick.

22 MR. FEFERMAN: Do 8 3/4 times 78
23 times 3.

24 MR. CHAVEZ: It is \$6,965 per year.

25 MR. FEFERMAN: No, that can't be

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1 right. See if we can find the exact amount of
2 judgment, would you? 78,000.

3 MR. CHAVEZ: Per year, per year.

4 MR. FEFERMAN: Oh, per year?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Yeah.

6 MR. FEFERMAN: Oh, okay.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: And if we take that --

8 MR. FEFERMAN: That's times three
9 point.

10 MR. CHAVEZ: -- that's a per diem
11 rate of \$19, \$19.10.

12 MR. FEFERMAN: It's about a year and
13 a third. And I'm -- I'm just guessing at this,
14 estimating at this point. So if you multiply that
15 times 3.3, it comes to about twenty-two five. We'll
16 have to supply exact numbers. And then there would
17 be -- we would ask the Court to award costs in this
18 case. I don't have that for you right now.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Do we need to set
20 a separate hearing to deal with the costs, or do you
21 think that --

22 MR. CHAVEZ: I'll have to wait and
23 see what they are.

24 MR. FEFERMAN: We're going -- we're
25 going to try to work that out and maybe we can do it
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1 on briefs or something like that. But, you know,
2 78-something plus twenty-two five, plus some number
3 for costs is going to be a number above a hundred
4 thousand. But, you know, some -- I would expect it
5 between a 100, 110.

6 We spent a lot on Mr. South, and I don't
7 have a final bill and -- yes, I know it's going to
8 kill us. But that's -- that's the vicinity that
9 we're talking about, Your Honor. So we will -- if
10 the Court wishes, when we get back I'll reduce that
11 to more precise figures, send it to Mr. Chavez for
12 his review, and try to furnish you what we agree on,
13 or at least what we -- we contend. Okay.

14 THE COURT: And I do find, again, as
15 to the receivership, Mr. Feferman, do you -- do you
16 know if you asked for -- I see it as one of the
17 remedies allowed by the statute, but did you request
18 that in your Complaint?

19 MR. FEFERMAN: We asked for judgment
20 and such further relief as the Court deems just.

21 Our goal is to --

22 THE COURT: Other than your remedy --

23 MR. FEFERMAN: Yeah.

24 THE COURT: -- is awarded, other than
25 the receivership.

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1 MR. FEFERMAN: Yeah.

2 THE COURT: Again, hopefully that's
3 not going to be necessary.

4 MR. FEFERMAN: I don't know whether
5 they're going to pay or what we're going to do. Our
6 goal was just to collect it in a straightforward
7 manner as we -- as we can. I don't know what
8 happens next.

9 THE COURT: Anything further I need
10 to rule on to clarify the record?

11 MR. CHAVEZ: No, Your Honor, nothing
12 from the Defendants.

13 MR. FEFERMAN: The only other thing I
14 would --

15 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, there is one other
16 thing.

17 MR. FEFERMAN: Go ahead.

18 MR. CHAVEZ: And that is I'd like to
19 renew my argument for the record that -- that the
20 judgment as to Shari Sulima shouldn't be enforced
21 with regard to the finding of fraud, that there was
22 no intent, no actual intent by Ms. Sulima, to do
23 anything because she was not involved in any of the
24 transfers.

25 THE COURT: And again, Mr. Chavez,
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1 I'm going to go with the previous ruling, in that
2 it's a corporation, they're doing this as it was
3 all, or at least the appearance to the Court, is
4 this money went into joint accounts accessed by the
5 family. Again --

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Well, I'm sorry, let me
7 stop you there, just because I think that the -- the
8 intent is of the transferee, the one who receives,
9 and the transferor. The transferor is the
10 corporation. Certainly you can find that there's
11 intent there. There's evidence, the Court said that
12 there was evidence of that. The transferee, the
13 people who received it, is both George Sulima and
14 his -- and his wife Shari.

15 The Court, I think, was saying that Mr. --
16 Mr. Sulima had the intent to receive it, but there's
17 no evidence that Shari had the intent to receive it.
18 So I think as to actual intent to defraud, there's
19 no evidence as to that, as Shari Sulima is an
20 individual receiving assets from a corporation.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Feferman, response.

22 MR. FEFERMAN: I would just note
23 under 56-10-18a, yeah, the question is whether -- it
24 says, "This transfer is made," et cetera, "if the
25 debtor made this transfer or incurred this

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1 obligation, number one, with intent -- actual intent
2 to hinder." So it's the debtor, which was Shauna,
3 Inc.'s intent that is considered, not Mr. Sulima or
4 Mrs. Sulima's intent.

5 THE COURT: In receiving?

6 MR. FEFERMAN: Yeah.

7 THE COURT: And I did find that the
8 company, Shauna, Inc. --

9 MR. FEFERMAN: Yeah.

10 THE COURT: -- intended to defraud.

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

12 THE COURT: To hinder, delay or
13 defraud.

14 MR. FEFERMAN: The only other point I
15 would have, just -- just in terms of the record, is
16 when we originally put the exhibit book together,
17 there were some exhibits that they weren't able to
18 consent to, but I think in his opening Mr. Chavez
19 acknowledged that he didn't have any objections, and
20 I would just want to clarify that the exhibit books
21 we have with all of the exhibits are -- are part of
22 the record and are admitted.

23 THE COURT: The Court has used them.
24 I know they were never officially offered, but when
25 I asked that question at the beginning, I believed

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

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4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5 I, Kendra D. Tellez, New Mexico CCR #205 and
6 Notary Public within and for the State of New
7 Mexico, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I did transcribe the
8 tape to the best of my ability; and the foregoing is
9 a true and correct transcript of the proceedings.
10 The tape was of fair quality recording.

11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
12 nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
13 this case, and that I have no interest in the final
14 disposition of this case in any court.

15
16
17 
18 KENDRA D. TELLEZ, RMR/CRR
19 Certified Court Reporter #205
20 License Expires: 12/31/09
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1 most were stipulated to. Are there any particular
2 exhibits, Mr. Chavez, that you did not stipulate
3 to that --

4 MR. CHAVEZ: No.

5 THE COURT: -- you wanted to argue
6 about for the record at this point.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: The letter. No. No,
8 no. And -- and it's already on the record that we
9 need the other -- the other, the previous case,
10 that's part of the record.

11 THE COURT: Yes, and I've made that
12 part of the record today. I don't know if we -- how
13 we'll do that. I'll just reference it or we'll have
14 to include the entire file as part of the record.
15 Do you guys want the binders back?

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